

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 OIC-02 STRE-00
DOEE-00 /163 W

-----011426 281056Z /17

P 281036Z MAR 78 ZFF5
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7667
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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USMTN

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, BG
SUBJECT: US/BANGLADESH BILATERAL

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSION OF US OFFER WITH BANGLADESH
DEL TURNED AS ALWAYS TO QUESTION OF SPECIAL TREATMENT
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED (PARA 6 OF TOKYO DECLARATION).
MTN DEL EXPLAINED U.S. TRADE ACT AUTHORITY; IDENTIFIED
FIVE CHANGES TO THAT AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO RESPOND
TO BANGLADESH'S REQUESTS; GAVE PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT
FOR ANY SUCH CHANGES, AND ATTEMPTED TO FOCUS DISCUSSION
ON SPECIFIC PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO BANGLADESH.
BANGLADESH REMAINED STEADFAST IN VIEW THAT LEGISLATIVE
CHANGES WOULD BE MADE TO HELP LEAST DEVELOPED, BUT
REDUCED NUMBER OF PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO BANGLADESH
AND IDENTIFIED RECENT TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN BANGLADESH
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THAT RESPONDED INDIRECTLY TO OUR TROPICAL PRODUCTS
REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. MTN DEL (GRAEF) MET WITH BANGLADESH DEL (AHMED)
ON MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS U.S. GENERAL OFFER AND TO RESPOND
TO POINTS RAISED BY AHMED'S LETTERS OF JAN 3 AND MARCH 1
REQUESTING SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT. MTN DEL

INDICATED THAT TRADE ACT REQUIRED FIVE AMENDMENTS TO RESPOND TO BANGLADESH'S REQUESTS AND OFFERED PERSONAL ASSESSMENT THAT CHANGES COULD NOT BE MADE. REQUESTS REQUIRING TRADE ACT AMENDMENT INCLUDE ELIMINATION OF 50 PERCENT COMPETITIVE NEED CEILING FOR LEAST DEVELOPED, SPECIAL PREFERENCES FOR LEAST DEVELOPED, COMPLETE REMOVAL OF ALL TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AFFECTING LEAST DEVELOPED, AN IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS FAVORING LEAST DEVELOPED. IN TWO HOUR DISCUSSION IN WHICH OTHER AREAS SUCH AS AID WERE TOUCHED ON, AHMED CONTINUED TO FALL BACK ON HIS BELIEF THAT U.S. CONGRESS WOULD DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY FOR LEAST DEVELOPED.

3. MTN DEL ATTEMPTED TO SHIFT FOCUS OF DISCUSSION TO PRODUCT BASIS UNDER CURRENT TRADE ACT AUTHORITY POINTING TO FORTHCOMING OFFERS, BASICALLY FULL AUTHORITY REDUCTIONS ON PROCESSED AND SEMI-PROCESSED JUTE PRODUCTS, AND ALSO POINTED TO THE RECENT ADDITION TO GSP OF TWO SUCH PRODUCTS AT REQUEST OF BANGLADESH. AHMED IN RESPONSE NOTED THAT DESPITE AMBIGUITY IN BANGLADESH REQUESTS, THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS REQUESTS FOR MFN REDUCTIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT PRINCIPAL INTERESTS WERE JUTE PRODUCTS, TANNED AND SEMITANNED LEATHER, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, FISH PRODUCTS, AND TOBACCO (THE LATTER THREE CATEGORIES AS IDENTIFIED ON HIS REQUEST LIST).

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4. AHMED ALSO INDICATED THAT BANGLADESH HAD RESPONDED INDIRECTLY TO U.S. REQUESTS IN TP GROUP. HE INDICATED THAT RECENT LIBERALIZATION TO AUTOMATIC LICENSING FOR REPATRIATED FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING BY OVERSEAS BANGLADESHI'S COVERED AREAS OF CONCERN TO U.S. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE MTN DEL WITH DETAILS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT AHMED CONSIDERS HIMSELF THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED IN THE MTN, AND BELIEVES THAT WITHOUT SOME FORM OF SPECIAL PREFERENCES FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED THAT THE MTN WILL RESULT IN NOTHING OF VALUE. DESPITE FORTHCOMING OFFER ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO BANGLADESH, WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO PRESENT THIS BELIEF ON EVERY OCCASION. END COMMENT. MCDONALD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA04580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780134-0335
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780319/aaaaaqaw.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d04a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3186068
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/BANGLADESH BILATERAL
TAGS: ETRD, BG, US, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d04a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014